

rather uncommon species. Typical Rich Cove herbs growing here include broad beech fern (*Phegopteris hexagonoptera*), black cohosh (*Cimicifuga racemosa*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*), and wind-flower (*Anemonella thalictroides*). Several of the rare or uncommon plant species include three-parted violet (*Viola tripartita*), pretty sedge (*Carex woodii*), Virginia snake-root (*Aristolochia serpentaria*), and Seneca snake-root (*Polygala senega*). Most of this forest is moderately mature and was likely cut approximately 50-60 years ago. The diverse, basophilic nature of the herb layer appears to be related to the abundance of hornblende at the ground surface in this community.

A variety of Montane Oak-Hickory Forest with an open understory and rich herb layer co-occurs with Rich Cove Forest on the lower slopes above Reasonover Creek. Canopy species include white oak, red oak, tulip poplar, red hickory (*Carya ovalis*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*). Carolina silverbell and yellow buckeye are common understory trees. Shrubs such as witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), arrow-wood (*Viburnum carolinianum* [= *dentatum* var. *carolinianum*]), beaked hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*), and young chestnut (*Castanea dentata*) sprouts are present. The ground-layer is very diverse with rich herbs and ferns, such as maidenhair fern, slender muhly (*Muhlenbergia tenuiflora*), pale indian-plantain (*Arnoglossum atriplicifolium*), yellow lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium pubescens*), interrupted fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*), hog-peanut (*Amphicarpaea bracteata*), and Biltmore carrion-flower (*Smilax biltmoreana*). Significantly Rare Seneca snakeroot also grows in this community along with Watch List shrub Carolina holly (*Ilex ambigua*). Several other locally uncommon plant species grow in this community: three-parted violet, Virginia snakeroot, American lily-of-the-valley (*Convallaria majuscula*), melic grass (*Melica mutica*), wild kidney bean (*Phaseolus polystachios*), and tway-blade orchid (*Liparis lilifolia*). Several other species of orchids are reported to grow nearby. Green salamanders (*Aneides aeneus*) inhabit small outcrops on the forested slopes of this community. Though much of this community is fairly mature, some areas have been recently cut and are still regenerating.

More typical oak forest also occurs in the site on upper slopes and ridge tops. The canopy is comprised of a variety of oaks and hardwoods including white oak, black oak (*Quercus velutina*), scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*), chestnut oak (*Q. montana*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and white pine (*Pinus strobus*). Fraser's magnolia, eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), and sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*) are common in the understory. The shrub layer is primarily comprised of ericaceous species including buckberry (*Gaylussacia ursina*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp). The herb layer is sparse due in part to deer browse and is dominated by New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) and hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*). Patches of French Broad heartleaf and a single small rose-bud orchid (*Cleistes bifaria*) were observed growing in this community. Montane Oak-Hickory Forest on the side of the site is bisected by a powerline corridor and is of lesser quality with a greater concentration of white pine. Some areas of this community intermix with Chestnut Oak Forest on upper ridges and ridge tops.

Acidic Cove Forest and Canada Hemlock Forest both occur along Reasonover Creek and its tributaries. Acidic Cove Forest is the predominant natural community, with a canopy dominated by mature eastern hemlock and mesic hardwoods like tulip poplar, sweet birch (*Betula lenta*), and beech (*Fagus grandifolia*). Carolina silverbell is present as an understory tree. The shrub layer is